



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Russian Federation Statement on Elections in the Transnistrian Region of Moldova

As delivered by Ambassador Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 14, 2006

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States clearly support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova. The United States does not recognize the December 10th elections held in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova. The Transnistrian region is not an independent entity, and therefore no country can recognize its elections for a "president." The holding of those elections was counterproductive to efforts to reach a settlement to the Transnistrian conflict and we call for the parties to resume negotiations.

We have a question for the Russian Delegation:

How do you reconcile your country's statement on the elections in Transnistria and the referendum recently held with the position we have all taken in this organization that Transnistria is an integral part of Moldovan sovereign territory, and that the solution to that conflict lies within that framework? Doesn't the Russian official position, as enunciated in Moscow, give encouragement to separatists to believe that your country, at least, is ready to countenance their independence and is ready to treat Mr. Smirnov as the sovereign leader of Transnistria?

Thank you.